

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN
AND FOR GADSDEN, COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ON JULY 22, 2010, THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ**

PRESENT:

Commissioner Eugene Lamb, Chair Dist. 1
Commissioner Doug Croley, Vice-Chair Dist. 2
Commissioner Gene Morgan, Dist. 3
Dist 4 - Vacant
Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, Dist 5
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of the Courts
Johnny Williams, County Administrator
Deborah Minnis, County Attorney
Muriel Straughn, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Lamb called the Budget Workshop Meeting to order at 4:00 PM, with a quorum present and he then turned the meeting over to the County Administrator.

Mr. Williams referred to a letter received from Clerk Thomas in which the Clerk stated the County's revenues were basically on target. Mr. Williams also stated the County is actually further ahead than they were at this time last year; that actually the County has a balanced budget at this time. He said this year it is just a matter of setting priorities. Mr. Williams also explained Ms. Chess is present to assist in the review of the budget.

AUDIT:

Commissioner Taylor brought up a letter sent to the Commissioners from the Clerk concerning the audit and asked if the letter could be addressed at this time.

Chairman Lamb said he had spoken with the Clerk and asked that Clerk Thomas explain the situation to the Board.

Clerk Thomas explained the Audit is not considered complete and will not be accepted by many of the State and Federal agencies without the required response letters to the Audit from the Board and each of the Constitutional Officers. The response letters must be included in the "bound audit/financial statement report". He said his Office has received response letters from the Board and each of the Constitutionals, with the exception of the Sheriff. This is causing a delay in the submission of the Audit to the agencies and could possibly affect some of the County's future funding on grants, etc. Once the Sheriff's response letter is received, the Audit can be printed, bound and distributed to all State and Federal agencies as required by Fla. Statutes. It was noted that the Sheriff is waiting on his legal counsel's response before submitting his formal response letter.

There was some discussion as how to best handle this situation and it was the consensus of the Board that the County Administrator send a "courtesy" letter to the Sheriff concerning the importance and necessity of receiving his response letter as it is imperative.

Chairman Lamb asked at this point that the Administrator proceed with the budget review.

REVENUE TRENDS/FUND BALANCE:

Commissioner Croley asked to go over the revenue trends, in the general major fund areas as to how they are trending. He said they had received a report from the Clerk's Office (Ms. Shuler) that gave the breakdowns but he couldn't print it -

Clerk Thomas said the report from Ms. Shuler is pretty much the same, in line with what is being presented at this meeting.

Commissioner Croley asked Ms. Chess if the report from her dated 7/14/10 is the report that is more accurate in terms of the revenues and she responded affirmatively. He also asked if the 2010-2011 budget is being based on 95% of the revenue, holding back 5% and Ms. Chess said that was correct.

Commissioner Croley addressed Clerk Thomas on revenue hold back, "Mr. Thomas if this budget is predicated on 95% of this

revenue, does that adequately allow you to add to the reserves?"

Clerk Thomas "The budget is based on 95% of revenue and the 5% hold back is a requirement of law. They have to do that and what is really smart is that helps you with fluctuations; potential fluctuations. In terms of building reserves, we're mainly talking about general fund right? We're talking about building reserves and I did have an issue that I addressed in a memo that we think the revenue is good in terms of the general fund. I think, and the last time I checked we had a \$500,000.00 reserve for contingency budgeted, which by itself is really great. So what that means if you have that \$500,000.00 in reserve for contingency, it means if you go through a fiscal year and you have an emergency, you can take that money and cover that emergency. But, if you have no emergencies and you go through the end of the fiscal year then that \$500,000.00 can go in your fund balance. The only problem I had with that was that it also, on the revenue side budgeted \$246,134.00 cash forward which means you're taking revenue from the previous year fund balance and taking it to the next year; and that's the one thing we talked about last year about zeroing out in the general funds. So the one way to build reserves is to always, in the general fund at least, is to budget zero in terms of cash forward. Right, because that means you are taking cash from reserves from the previous years and using it in the next year so if you - The key, I think, to build reserves is to budget it at zero there because if you are budgeting \$246,000.00 bringing it forward, then your reserve for contingencies really is not truly \$500,000.00; are you with me because you are bringing money from the previous year that would have been in your fund balance or your reserves."

Commissioner Croley "I'm with you - the point you're making. So, if we're dealing in percentages we should reserve more, in your opinion, more than 5% which is the minimum required by law. Should we increase the reserves beyond the 5% hold back is what I'm asking."

Clerk Thomas "Well structurally you could do that. However, you have a problem already -- OK, we say the budget is balanced. It is somewhat balanced because by bringing that cash forward you're not really building as much reserves as you think you are because you are bringing cash forward from the previous year. So, then if you zero that out, then your

reserve for contingencies that you have budgeted automatically goes from \$500,000.00 down to \$250 something thousand."

Commissioner Croley "Then I'm asking is that enough to build the type of reserves that you have advocated?"

Clerk Thomas "This is my thing. I'm comfortable as long as you budget zero cash forward and you have a significant budgeted reserve whether its \$500,000 - I think \$500,000.00 is a super number, but in this case it's just not a real number. I think if you can build \$500,000.00 a year to your fund balance, I think that's wonderful. That's a reasonable goal for a county our size and in our financial situation. I'm just saying to you that that \$500,000.00 is not completely real because you are budgeting cash forward. If that \$500,000.00 was - if you didn't have - if you had zero in terms of cash forward, I would feel really good about that \$500,000.00."

Commissioner Croley "What happens if we do zero cash forward?"

Ms. Chess "We'd have to go back through the budget then and make a cut for \$246,000. between the departments that are funded by general fund."

Clerk Thomas "Could I just address a couple of things, three areas and then I'll be done? So that's one issue and means that \$246,000 takes your reserve for contingencies on your expense side down - take it down no longer \$500,000.00 and in one of the memos I addressed an issue about the hospital. There are a couple of things that are happening as a result of your agreement with Capital Regional. In the hospital fund she (Ms. Chess) budgets money from dividends from the Trust, but you are no longer getting those dividends from the Trust. That money is going to Capital Regional. As of June, we will be sending that money to Capital Regional so you can't build your budget on that anymore, and then the Indigent half-cent Tax - that's a whole discussion that we probably need to have; give me a minute on that one, OK? You know, originally the County was only supposed to get one-third of that money and that changed because they went to Court and approximately 60% of it now goes to debt service - started seeing that debt service in April. According to your agreement with Capital Regional, 50% of what's left goes to Capital Regional which is approximately 20%, so a total of 80% now goes hospital related. That leaves 20% and at a recent meeting you told Maximo Martinez and the Health Council to go back and re-

formulate a plan. I met with them and they are formulating a plan based on the 20% that's left which is approximately \$250,000.00 a year going forward. So, you would think, from the way we look at it, that that money is going to the health plan. You haven't addressed that issue yet, but according to your agreement with Capital Regional 50% of what's left after debt service goes to Capital Regional. The assumption, I guess is that the remainder goes to the health plan which is now only 20% vs. what they thought would be about 66% and they are, of course, willing to accept that but what that means is you don't have revenue going into this hospital fund #103 and you still have some minor expenses left there. You have some insurance and some utilities, but we believe those expenses should now go to general fund because you don't have any revenues going there any more."

Commissioner Croley "How much would you estimate the insurance and utilities that had previously come out of Fund #103 would amount to?"

Clerk Thomas "She has a budget, I think she budgeted --"

Ms. Chess "Utilities, I put \$120,000.00. Did you say utilities?"

Clerk Thomas "Utilities, insurance and what other expenses you have there and --"

Ms. Chess "Well, the total expenditures, I put around \$177,000.00 and that was just on my estimate because I didn't get a chance to talk to Clyde, but when Clyde and I talked today he said he can cut a lot of those expenditures down because I told him now it's fully funded from general fund. It's not funded from the #103, so I'm going to go back in and take out all of the revenues and cut the expenditures down."

Commissioner Croley "OK, because the comments made about the cost of running the utilities is substantially less than what it had previously been. Is that -- so that shouldn't be a major problem."

Ms. Chess "In the insurance I put \$27,000.00 this year."

Clerk Thomas "And then there was discussion about mowing and I don't know if Clyde put that in his regular maintenance budget yet or if we were expecting to have that come out of there, but the point is there is no revenue. There is potentially a

few dollars if you lease the place, but you can't count on that being enough money to cover those expenses so it really just needs to be dumped into the general fund. It's like with mowing for example or with maintenance - you maintain all the other buildings. All of that is a general fund expense; it's just a normal practice. It shouldn't be a big deal; however, what it means though is a little bit more expense going to your general fund that may not have been previously funded to go there."

Commissioner Croley "You said there was a third area?"

Clerk Thomas "About the half-cent tax and that will come up later, but since we are talking about it; remember I sent you a spread- sheet, there is a spreadsheet that shows what was collected through March of this year from the inception - January of '09. Right, I think it was like \$1.7 million and it shows all of the expenditures and then it shows some money left. Now that will be something that's going to be a question mark for you. We know as of April going forward when the debt service started and in June when Capital Regional starts getting their money, we know that 100% of what you collect on the half-cent tax is obligated; either debt service, Capital Regional or the health plan. But, through March there will be about \$400,000.00 left. \$400,000.00 and you will probably be faced with the decision of how to spend that money. You'll probably hear from the Health Department wanting it because they will say for 20 years now we'll only get the 20%. You might hear from the people from the hospital committee who may want to use it for additional hospital renovations or something, I don't know. I'm just letting you know that will be an issue that will be coming up, but in going forward, 100% of that money is obligated. Therefore, you don't have revenue going into your hospital fund any more, and then that brings up another issue. That fund that we're telling you that no longer has any money in it has traditionally been a place where we've had money. We had dividends, at one point we had \$2.5 million there and there was money available to do repairs and stuff at the hospital. You just need to be aware that that doesn't exist any more as you go forward and things pop up - requests pop up and that will be a challenge to decide how to address the whole thing."

Commissioner Croley "Well that of course, and to bring this to a close, is that we're hopeful that, as Mr. Glazer said last time, that space will be leased out and we have flexibility with what may or may not be done with the space. All the

environment is secured and that's in good order so we really shouldn't have, based upon the actual operational factors, the demands for all of the monies that have been in the past and if you are able to cut the costs Mr. Collins that will help tremendously on removing that \$177,000.00 that I think you said you had in the budget, so that would help us."

Clyde Collins "There's still going to be some maintenance issues out there you know. We're still going to have to take care of the chillers and things like that. You still have all of that to do. You know, lightning struck it and it was - there are four contactors in that one chiller and each one of them is \$4,000.00 a piece. Chillers - if one of them went down and we had to replace it that is \$130,000 for a chiller. They're not new; they're eight or nine years old."

Commissioner Croley asked if that was an insured claim and Mr. Collins responded affirmatively and said it is going to the insurance company.

Commissioner Taylor "Mr. Chair, if I may, I did hear the Clerk say, or said the 25% of the half-cent sales tax is already obligated to the Health Council, but in light of this information and I don't want to be the one divvying at 20% but there is something we might need to consider, at least \$50,000.00 of the \$250,000.00 that they are going to get, because that's what 20% equates to, based on what you just said -- \$250,000.00 am I correct?"

Clerk Thomas "Yes, \$250,000.00."

Commissioner Taylor "That's just an idea of where we could get some revenues. I don't want to do it, but obviously when you have a line item that has expenditures but no revenue base then you're getting money from another source and you want those sources to match. If we've got an area where we can get \$50,000.00 and put it into a revenue line to kind of off set some of those expenditures, then I think that this is something we need to look at. So the \$50,000.00 and I will personally say to Mr. Martinez that I won't ask for anything additional, but I would like to see a revenue obligated to that item, that line item annually and asking for \$50,000.00 off of the \$250,000.00 I don't think would--"

Clerk Thomas "I knew that was probably what you guys would want to try and do. I personally don't think, and I'm not an attorney, but I think there are issues with doing that. You

know, the Judge allowed use of the money to get the hospital going, the hospital is going, there was a vote taken that many of us didn't understand at the time, but there was an Ordinance passed that included a health plan as part of it and very little of that money has left for that particular purpose. I think these expenses are general fund expenses. You can subsidize them with, like you said, the rent that comes in. I think legal counsel would really need to take a look at it if you're going to take more of that money under those circumstances and I think there could be questions legally about that."

Commissioner Taylor "I certainly agree that we need to make sure we are legally OK to do it. I'm not one to side step the law, but we should consider it - I don't want to Clerk. I want to be very honest with you. We are going to need indigent care money and that's what it is obligated for. That's what the \$250,000.00 is for going towards the Health Council and I would like to see a larger part going over there because you are going to find quite a few people in the County that are going to need that assistance, but like I said, we didn't see this; obviously we didn't but if we are able to balance the budget by using general funds then fine. If we can get the revenues to use to take care of our side of the utilities and the insurance, then I think we need to look at it; but, you are right - we need to look at the legal aspect of it."

Chairman Lamb "And from your office there will be a track record on how those funds are spent?"

Clerk Thomas "Yes sir, we're accounting for the money."

Commissioner Morgan "Mr. Clerk, thanks for being here and we appreciate that and particularly our communications we've had in the past week. I know Helene has spent a lot of time in your office and has been very helpful, as well as Ms. Chess. Regarding the general fund, our fund balance as now compared to last year. How do they compare? Are we in better shape than we were the end of last year?"

Clerk Thomas "At the end of last fiscal year I think it was about \$2.3 million; the previous two fiscal years, at the end of 08 and 07- excuse me, at the end of 09 that you're going to an audit report on real soon, your fund balance in the general fund came down two hundred and something thousand dollars. We had talked

about that at the end of last fiscal year, trying to guesstimate how much and it was less than \$300,000.00. The year before that it was \$1.2 million. So the last two years your fund balance has gone down about \$1.5 million. At the end of this fiscal year, I fully expect your fund balance to increase. I can't say exactly how much but I do fully expect it to increase based on the budget you passed last year."

Commissioner Morgan "OK, so we're turning our direction that way, and I know we have mentioned a couple of times that we budget at 95% as required by the State. Historical collections of our revenues have been at 96-97%, is that correct?"

Clerk Thomas "In general fund really, you really never - sometimes you collect less; there have been some years when we collected less than 95%; 95-96%, but you never collect 100%."

Commissioner Morgan "I was taking a look in your Office and historically I think it showed 96-97% "

Clerk Thomas "Yes, something like that, and its better now because a few years ago we insisted that Davin Suggs back out the CRA money that goes to the City of Quincy and the City of Havana. We know the money is going there, so just automatically back it out in the budget, but prior to them doing that the collection rate dropped to below 95%. Having done that and continuing to do it ever year since, you're getting around 95-96-97%."

Commissioner Morgan "OK, thank you."

Mr. Croley "One thing. Our favorite news reporter is sitting over here writing it down and I want to make sure that we're clear though, Mr. Clerk on the fact that 'yes, it wasn't, we're not being blindsided on the hospital expense. We do have to mow the grass, we do have to keep up with the basic infrastructure of the buildings and we do have to pay some of the utilities, but none of those expenses that are properly planned in here should be overwhelming or reach the level that you have in the budget Ms. Chess, if he can go back in and make the adjustments and as Commissioner Taylor referenced here, maybe we need to look at other - at how we handle the revenue on how the rental of space is done. Are we clear on that?"

Ms. Chess "Correct, correct and Clyde sit in my office and went over the budget because I told him that it was just a estimate that I done so he should be able to give you some figures today."

Clerk Thomas "Like I said, though, in every other department those expenses are in general fund and it should not be a big to-do and the rent being that you collect and then deposit in general fund off sets that. It's just that you don't need to have a fund there that you know you don't have the revenue for it, that you may not have enough revenue collected from utilities to cover it, but in general fund the problem is resolved."

Commissioner Croley "OK."

Ms. Chess "Clyde will be the first one to speak and he will go according to how it is set up in your books and whatever you decide on I will take notes and go back in the system and make the changes and let you know an up-date of what happened at the end of today."

BUILDING INSPECTION:

Mr. Williams explained Mr. Collins has building inspection, code enforcement, building maintenance and custodial.

Mr. Collins "We've already cut our budget from what we had last year, so."

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Collins if what they have before them is a break-out because in the 08-09 budget that was a \$4 million year and in this years requested budget it shows \$2.5 million, if there are other services being categorized in a different category because this is a substantial reduction in costs.

Mr. Williams said that was because several months back they got a new definition on how they could use the one-cent surtax and it was limited to public facilities and fire protection. In years past they used that on buildings, but under the new definition it can't be used on buildings any more. You will see a huge reduction on buildings and you will see a huge increase in public works that was brought about by the new definition.

Commissioner Taylor "And that is a definition this Board adopted sometime back; am I correct?"

Mr. Williams "Yes Mam."

Ms. Minnis "That is all relating to the Small County Sales Tax; the one-cent sales tax that was adopted some years back. That is the wording in the Ordinance adopted by the Board at that time."

Commissioner Taylor asked what the funds were previously used for and how those expenses will be handled in the future and Mr. Collins said it had been used for capital outlay/repairs on county buildings. Now they will go through Capital Projects and there is \$462,000 shown in his budget for that.

Mr. Williams "Now it will come from general revenue, can't use the one cent any more so Robert is the winner and Clyde is the loser."

Chairman Lamb also pointed out that in Mr. Collins budget under Gadsden County Urgent Care 08-09 showed \$1,091,000.00, 09-10 shows \$320,648.00, and 2010-11 -0- which is a big savings.

Commissioner Taylor agreed and said that would certainly bring the 2010-11 budget down on that line item but that there is still about \$700,000.00.

Commissioner Taylor "Now you say you have found some dollars. Do you have some capital projects for this year where you will need the \$462,000.00?"

Mr. Collins "Well we budgeted that but we're going to split that up, if I'm not mistaken, over a four-year period. It's \$143,000.00 a year until we get - and it's basically for the roofs of these buildings because they're in bad shape."

Commissioner Taylor "So you're looking to get a contract, will it be a debt service over the next four years because, correct me if I'm wrong. Can you spend forward out of dollars from a current year? Can you project those dollars over three - four years? I thought you could only budget for what you're going to spend that year."

Mr. Collins "Well, you know if we budget \$143,000.00 this year for a roof and give it to me then I'll use that and then hopefully next year you'll give me another \$143,000.00."

Commissioner Taylor "Then it should be \$143,000.00."

Mr. Collins "I had a problem with all these roofs and I had them all looked at to see what it would cost to fix them. I had a contractor give me a price and that's what he gave me to fix all four of these roofs."

Commissioner Taylor "And that's what you want to do this year?"

Mr. Collins "I can't do all of them this year. I can only do one or two - or one of them this year."

Commissioner Taylor "Mr. Clerk, could I ask you a question. Help me with my legal process here. When you're budgeting multiple years in one fiscal year, you follow what I am saying?"

Clerk Thomas "I'm not sure -"

Mr. Collins "I will do, I mean I don't have to have one contractor do them all. We can bid them out and do all four roofs in one year, so I could do it. It would be a job, but we can do it."

Commissioner Taylor "OK."

Ms. Chess "On this front cover sheet that's how much he asked for in capital projects but it is not funded in the budget because I didn't want to put it in unless you all approve any capital. I didn't put no capital in. I just put it on this sheet as a reminder to let us know that we need to ask for that to the Commissioners and also you need to fund it from general fund so even if he asked for \$429,000.00 and he's only going to use \$143,000.00 we need to find that in general fund. We don't have it budgeted."

Commissioner Taylor "Correct me if I am wrong. What I'm looking at, you have identified revenues to balance these requested items?"

Ms. Chess "Well, not capital projects."

Commissioner Taylor "Not capital projects?"

Ms. Chess "And I spoke to Clyde today to let him know no capital was funded out of general fund. Although, I told him once he go over his projects and we get to the capital tab - that's why you see no projects back there to let the commissioners know that he wants to fund a roof and also any projects that he didn't fund or finish this year he is going to ask you all to forward those to next year and we will have to find the funds for those, also."

Commissioner Taylor "OK, I'll go to my next question. Where would you find funds for capital outlay projects?"

Ms. Chess "We don't have the funds. If you want to fund any capital projects from general fund you would have to cut another budget that is supported by general fund in order to come up with some capital project funding."

Commissioner Taylor "So, if I look at the expenditures - if I look at the requests in other line items, with the exception of capital outlay projects, you've identified a revenue source to do those?"

Ms. Chess "Yes."

Commissioner Taylor "And how many other departments will have this request in their budget?"

Ms. Chess "It's just - Public Works is funded with their own fund. They may be the only one, No, Charles budget. Charles budget asked for \$82,000.00 in capital projects for Sheffield Park. That's not funded by general fund so it's only Clyde's budget and Charles -- \$82,000.00 and the 462,000.00. Those are the only two and I just put them here as a reminder because if I didn't have them here, and with all that's going on, I wouldn't have remembered to let him know that we need to fund any capital projects that you approve."

Commissioner Taylor "Totally understandable. Thank you for the explanation."

Commissioner Croley "Clyde, explain what is a Provision parameter."

Mr. Collins "That's with the Ship Program and it's gone away. You're not going to get that."

Commissioner Croley "So that's gone away and you're OK. You mentioned roofs and it seems like to me that we passed a surcharge to speeding tickets or something that were generated in a Court facility fund. Now who is getting the money off the Court Facility Fund; is that coming into your Courthouse maintenance monies?"

Mr. Collins "Well, ya'll give me \$53,000.00 I think, not long ago to remodel the courtroom over there and we spent that and there will be an agenda item coming up in the near future for some more to do some of these roofs. I mean we can use it out of Court Facilities, but like on this building or any of the rest of them you couldn't do it. I think we could use it for the Courthouse, the Guy Race Annex and the Records Center."

Commissioner Croley "So that's three out of the four, perhaps from that money for capital outlay, so it's possible."

Clerk Thomas "And I would certainly like to see it go to those roofs and I know a request is coming, possibly at the next meeting, from the Chief Judge's Office and they're wanting to spend like \$157,000.00."

Commissioner Croley "Who is asking for \$157,000.00?"

Clerk Thomas "Court Administration."

Commissioner Croley "Well see, I'm like this. Don't you work in this building? Aren't you over the Courthouse?"

Mr. Collins "Yes, sir. Yes, sir."

Commissioner Croley "OK, well it seems like to me if you work in this building and you're over the Courthouse then this is part of the court system and we can fix the roof on this building, too."

Mr. Collins "I agree, just as long as I can get them fixed."

Commissioner Croley "You know, two and two add up to be four. Ms. Minnis we may have to call on you about that, but let somebody prove us wrong. Mr. Chair I think that's the direction we want to go in until somebody says sue or stops us."

Chairman Lamb "Now, we will have to get a legal opinion on that to see if or what can be done."

No further questions on Building Inspection.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Mr. Collins said Code Enforcement is a new one this year. It had to be broken out of the Building Department and made its own department.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Collins with everything that he has been asked to do if he is able to handle it with the staff he has and Mr. Collins responded, Not Officially. He said they maintain, that he only has one permit clerk and that he had to let one go but not because of budgetary problems.

Commissioner Taylor asked, with Mr. Collins Department also being a revenue generating department, if his department was self-supporting and he said at this time they are. That could change, but right now they are and permitting has picked up. He said his department has spent approximately \$141,000.00 so far this year and they have taken in \$217,000.00. He also said they were in the hole last year, and were in the hole this year until June but right now they are self-supporting.

Commissioner Taylor asked if Mr. Collins could look at his budget and possibly find somewhere to make a few cuts in order to get an additional permit tech - possibly in OPS position so that no benefits would have to be paid, etc.

Mr. Collins responded that he would love to have- that he really needs another permit tech. He explained the permit techs have to be certified and the one he has right now is doing everything; that he had to call one of his Code Enforcement Officers back into the Office one day last week to help out, and he also was in the Office helping out with the permitting. He did say they have to go to a class, pass it and be certified and they must be a notary. He said the last time he sent two of them to N. Carolina and the cost which included travel, lodging, class, and certification was approximately \$1,200.00. This cost would be at the expense of the County.

Commissioner Taylor said she didn't want to see the Code officer having to leave his responsibilities to help out in the Office as they need to keep the Code Enforcement proficient and

functioning effectively, and she would rather try and help with an additional employee for permitting.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they would incur any unforeseen costs because of some of the things they are having to do and then having to go and place liens on some of the properties because the owners aren't complying and Mr. Collins said they could possibly see some of those charges; if they start having to take people to Court that simply refuse to comply and the County has to go in and tear the house down or a mobile home taken apart, but so far 95% to 97% of the people are complying. There will always be one or two that doesn't. He said they have some funds built into the budget but it's going to be hit and miss because he has no way of knowing how many they may have to tear down and this is the first year they have done this.

Commissioner Taylor added that there are still ways for the County to recover whatever costs are incurred because once the structure is torn down, the County liens the property and if the property owner tries to sell it the County will get whatever costs they have in it.

Commissioner Morgan said a lien may be on that property for 20 years or longer and Commissioner Taylor asked the County Attorney if there was some type of provision that after so long if it doesn't sell, that it then become the property of the County and Ms. Minnis responded No, not that she was aware of.

Commissioner Croley said he has asked Ms. Minnis before about the possibility of looking at the Code Enforcement Ordinances to see if she could de-criminalize them so that the standard of evidence was not quite so high to assist Code Enforcement in their activities. He said it would help the public somewhat and at the same time make it easier for Code Enforcement to work with the people. If you then do have to incur costs perhaps as with the road paving of private roads, you would have the opportunity to sell those liens if it can't be dealt with any other way to recover the public costs of destroying, or demolishing severely damaged structures.

Ms. Minnis said she had looked at that and it hasn't been brought forward, but she couldn't remember specifically what she found, but that she does know part of the issue is controlled by the Courts and they demand a certain amount of evidence and whether the County can completely take it out of

the Courts or not that she doesn't remember what her findings were.

Commissioner Taylor said one of the retiring Judges had agreed to set as a Magistrate and that's something they talked about and it appeared to have received some support. She said right now she knows of three or four homes in her district where neighbors are feuding over it because they just built a brand new house in front of a shelled out house and it's still sitting there and that's unfair. She asked if there were any funds in it for a Magistrate and Mr. Collins response was No.

Chairman Lamb said that Ordinance is definitely something they need to work on because in the Gadsden County Codes for 2010, that is item 2; and that's exactly what they are talking about. He said staff will need to come back to the Board with something on it, but first the legal side of the issue needs to be addressed first.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT:

Chairman Lamb asked for comments/questions on the Maintenance Department's budget and Commissioner Croley said he would like to address a question that will apply to every department; it has to do with benefits and especially the cost of the health insurance.

He then asked if any recent effort had been made to try to get CHP to be more competitive for the County on the cost of the health care because it is a big burden for all of the departments to provide health care costs to the workforce.

Mr. Lawson responded that they have tried to get CHP to be competitive, but the biggest problem is that there isn't much competition in this area. He said CHP is about as competitive as any of the others are so the County is kind of over a barrel; that's what they've got and there will be an 8% increase to the County on it's premium coming in August.

Commissioner Croley asked if, with this item (Health Insurance) affecting every department Mr. Lawson could get the CHP Rep here with that increase, along with the County's agent as well, so the Board can have discussions on how these insurance costs are being based. He said the county needs to do something to try and control some of these expenses - especially with having the new medical facility maybe they can give the County some recognition.

Mr. Lawson responded that he could have them at the Board meeting when their agenda item is presented and Commissioner Croley suggested possibly even earlier if possible.

CUSTODIAL SERVICES:

Mr. Williams said if you look at health insurance, in every case you will see that it is higher than it was the year before and part of the increase is already built in (4%).

Commissioner Morgan asked if 4% had been built in and 4% still had not been built in and Mr. Williams responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Morgan asked when the 8% was going into effect and Mr. Lawson said October 1, 2010. Commissioner Morgan said then they are not necessarily looking at correct figures in that regard and Mr. Williams said it would have to be adjusted.

Ms. Chess said she would like to go back and check her figures because she had spoken with Trudei and they talked about putting in 10%. She said she wants to go back and verify her numbers. She said she knew at first she had put in 4%, but after she talked with Trudei she believes she increased it. Mr. Williams said he hopes at least 8% is in there and Ms. Chess said she will review it and will send out an email first thing in the morning.

Commissioner Taylor said the only thing she would recommend is to see if they can find the dollars needed to get an additional person in Building Inspection (permit tech) because that Department is a revenue generating department and is self-supporting. She asked the County Administrator if that was a reasonable request.

Mr. Williams responded "It is needed and has been for quite a while, but here again, everything in here is balanced and when you add something, you've got to take away something else and they will have to make a suggestion of where they are going to take it from."

Commissioner Taylor responded that is why she asked Mr. Collins to take a look at some of his line items to see.

Chairman Lamb explained Mr. Collins would look at that.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR - SHIP PROGRAM:

Mr. Williams explained the Grant Administrator is formerly what they called the SHIP Program, and Mr. Collins said he thought it had always been called Grant Administrator but they call it SHIP for short. All of this is under Community Development and basically there are no changes to this item.

HOSPITAL:

Mr. Williams asked if the new maintenance worker is included in the hospital budget portion and Mr. Collins said that position will actually be under building maintenance.

Clerk Thomas "There shouldn't be any money here. This is back to what we were talking about earlier."

Mr. Williams "Yeah, this is going to be zeroed out."

Commissioner Croley "Question. Back to the utility services - that \$120,000.00. As we heard earlier this week at the Commission meeting, the utilities are significantly less than that."

Mr. Collins "Yes, sir. Now the Urgent Care, I haven't got the one for this month now that nobody is in there. It's like I said, last month it was about \$650.00 and this month should be significantly less, but there will still be some utility bills for the shelled out spaces, including Urgent Care."

Commissioner Croley "But, you said they were minor though and the point I am trying to make is that you could use these funds elsewhere in this budget. I'm not trying to remove it from your budget and transfer it to someone else. I'm just trying to say we could move it around. Is that not --"

Clerk Thomas "No, --"

Mr. Collins "Has it already been moved?"

Clerk Thomas "This money doesn't exist there in this fund."

Commissioner Croley "Right, so basically Fund 103, from what you said earlier, this needs to come out altogether, right? So we can write that off - This whole hospital operating fund, it doesn't exist."

Commissioner Morgan "It exists, it just shows zero, correct?"

Clerk Thomas "It will be there but there is no money going to it. It doesn't function anymore.

Commissioner Morgan "Oh, OK so there's no reason to have it in there."

Chairman Lamb called for the next item.

JAIL MAINTENANCE:

Mr. Collins said this budget request shows a \$15,000.00 increase.

Commissioner Croley "Again Mr. Collins, a couple years ago it seems like we had budgeted like \$800,000.00 for capital improvements. Did you ever do those improvements?"

Mr. Collins "I did some of them but most of the money went away. Now for the air handlers, I think I had \$30,000.00 in there and then I had \$175,000.00 for the jail lock down, for the new locks but I have not done those projects yet."

Commissioner Croley "Well, what happened to that money?"

Mr. Collins "I'm hoping its still there."

Commissioner Croley "What do you mean its still there? How could it still be there?"

Clerk Thomas "Ya'll voted to spend the money on other things and I think that was the year the Sheriff actually came back and asked for money too. There has been two or three years that money has been budgeted in capital projects using that one cent tax but those projects haven't always been completed. Of course that probably was not a good thing because when you're talking about the County jail you don't want that to snowball at some point. I have a whole conversation I want to have with you about that. I don't know if this is the time; maybe that's a conversation we should just have about the jail."

Mr. Collins "Well, just for the jail maintenance we asked for, Friday it was \$40,000.00 and then it went to \$35,000.00 and now I'm asking for \$50,000.00 because I've got 30 exhaust fans on that roof and only like five of them work. I've got to replace them. It's amazing that it's been let go like it has."

Commissioner Croley "Do you maintain the building? I guess that's what I'm trying to understand."

Mr. Collins "The Sheriff actually has two people that work out there but we foot the bill for it. Like for changing out the shower stalls we do all of that. Maintain the air handlers, chillers, exhaust fans, everything."

Commissioner Croley "I'm looking at my page and it says \$40,000.00, where is the \$50,000.00? Am I looking at the right page? What I am trying to say, is you are asking for \$50,000.00 rather than \$40,000.00."

Mr. Collins "Yes, sir."

Mr. Williams "Somebody didn't get an update. You and Commissioner Taylor didn't get an update."

Commissioner Croley "Well I don't know Mr. Clerk, what kind of conversation we are supposed to be going to have and when, but"

Clerk Thomas "He is only talking about jail maintenance now."

Mr. Collins "Yeah, all I'm talking about right now is just jail maintenance."

Clerk Thomas "I'm talking more about capital projects that you budgeted money for in the past but the projects weren't executed and it just concerns me that— doesn't have to do with just the jail - it just concerns me that we're not heading to a situation when you fail to do capital projects like that; at a place like that, that we don't find ourselves in a situation where you have to do major renovations or expansion, and that's why I think a whole conversation needs to be had in that area. I want to go back to something I tried. I started it last summer and that's when the Chief Justice was here. One of the things he put up on that board, and one of the things that he acknowledged was that we are entitled to two and two-thirds of a judge. That two-thirds of a judge we don't have. We have it in the form of hearing officers who can't hear felony cases. That is something I would like this Board to be willing to follow up on with the judiciary because I believe that was the purpose of adding the extra courtroom that we just paid for and it's not being used for that purpose. So what I believe, and if you look back in the record, the jail has been a problem for 40 years and it's always going to be a problem, but you are finding yourself in a situation where if you have got to do

major expansion without getting additional judge help first then the problem is only going to be worse. You are going to house more people and you still have only one circuit judge dealing with the situation. I just think as a Board, as a Body, you need to put pressure on the Chief Judge to fulfill that promise made many years ago, that we would have a third judge spending two-thirds of their time here and the focus would be on felony trials, OK, and that that happens before you find yourself having to do jail expansion. You are probably going to have to add a pod or something anyway, but I'm saying the situation will be worse if we don't do that. What you also see in this budget, in that Judicial Fund 114 - we haven't got there yet but I'll just tell you about it - He has in the budget subsidizing that fund \$149,000.00. This is money you don't have to do, but you are doing on top of the fees that my Office collects that goes into that fund to give them things -- special things that they want; for example paying for their travel, so you're doing some special things for them and I would like for you as a Body to put pressure on the Chief Judge to honor that obligation. Then you can start talking about in the future, a pod or whatever you choose to do. So, I too am concerned that major repairs got budgeted but money never got spent on them and are we finding ourselves in the situation where the place is going to pot and you are going to be forced to do something about and if you are, you really don't have money to deal with it, but let's start dealing with the problem and get a judge - a real judge with two-thirds of their time to focus on felony trials. I think that should happen first, but if not, you can go and build as much jail as you want but then we're going to have an even bigger problem."

Mr. Collins "I think, if I'm not mistaken and in talking to them down there today, the jail is already way over crowded."

Clerk Thomas "Last year when the Chief Judge was here he bragged on Judge Dekker working hard and I complimented her, too. She worked hard and got the population down and I said that is something that can't be sustained and now she is retiring."

Commissioner Croley "Well that brings up the question and I'm sorry but I've got to try and understand this -"

Clerk Thomas "I got off the subject."

Commissioner Croley "No, what you're saying kind of makes sense. You've kind of put the horse before the cart so that I

appreciate. What I don't understand is when you say we budgeted money for capital improvements and we think, at least I thought that we were addressing the need with a resource and then it doesn't happen and I don't understand why it doesn't happen."

Clerk Thomas "That's happened a lot of years. Sometimes the Board will budget a project and they don't get done and sometimes you think well we budgeted that a year ago or two years ago and the money's still there, but it's not there unless you've carried it forward for the next fiscal year to do it in. Davin Suggs was notorious for doing that. He would say what all ya'll want to do and he would put it all in there and then say what do ya'll want to do next year and put all of that in there, and then the stuff from last year wouldn't get done."

Commissioner Croley I think a lot of times the people up here may be thinking that money carries over. You start off a new budget year and if it's not carried over then its back in the funds or contingencies, or whatever the case may be."

Clerk Thomas "You have to make it carry over."

Chairman Lamb "So, if we have a capital project we need to make sure it is carried out, but right now we have a request for that two-thirds judge and we still haven't got it."

Clerk Thomas "He thinks that he makes that up by a Magistrate Hearing Officer for child support, but the whole thing about that is that that is not what our intent was as those individuals aren't legally authorized to handle felony trials so it would help if we had a real judge to spend some of their time helping out with felony trials for those people in jail with no bonds, they're not getting out, they have to have their day in court."

Chairman Lamb "What is your request or recommendation to us?"

Clerk Thomas "They're going to be here, I think next week on that request to spend some of that Court Facilities money you've talked about. I would like to see a resolution of some effort that this Body would encourage them to give us a real judge. He acknowledged it here in this room that we are entitled to two-thirds of a judge - two-thirds of a third judge."

Chairman Lamb "OK Mr. Administrator you hear that. You need to remind us to make sure we remind that Judge of that."

Clerk Thomas "Now he's under pressure to not do that because he wants that two-thirds of that judges time in Tallahassee to help Leon County; they built a new jail and it was filled up almost when it was built and he wants that judge's time in Tallahassee, but that's what we are entitled to—having a judge rather than just a hearing officer."

Commissioner Croley "Can we get a resolution drafted?"

Chairman Lamb "Even if we get one drafted he ain't going to do it."

Clerk Thomas "I think he needs to be put on record and he's been Chief Judge for al long time and I think maybe after next year he won't be Chief Judge any more and I think the next Judge may be more favorable to us because he will already be on record."

After additional discussion it was the consensus of the Board that they would talk with the Chief Judge first, prior to the resolution."

Commissioner Morgan "Clyde, just to clarify on the capital outlay projects -- have you got too many things that we are trying to do in a specific time that doesn't allow us to get to these capital projects? I know that's a separate issue from the funds being carried over, but --"

Mr. Collins "The hospital kept me from getting to all of this or I would have already had them done, but it's on now and we can do it".

Chairman Lamb "OK, that's good."

Mr. Collins "I need the \$50,000.00 for that and I need to carry the two capital outlay projects over to next year; I'll never get them done by the time we close out our budget."

Commissioner Croley "What two other capital --"

Mr. Collins "I've got one to finish out the air handlers which is like \$30,000.00 and then my lock down was \$175,000.00."

Commissioner Croley "Have we got that in here?"

Ms. Chess "No, if you carry it over you're going to have to fund it from fund balance."

Commissioner Morgan "See, that's the thing, we can't have projects that we don't have--"

Chairman Lamb "But we can carry it over can't we?"

Commissioner Croley "You can't carry over."

Ms. Chess "You really don't carry over projects. Everything stops and it would be like new funds that you're budgeting for these two projects, \$175,000.00 and \$30,000.00. Then the new roof he wants funded for the first year is \$143,000.00, so that's over \$300,000.00." The \$175,000.00 was budgeted this year in Fund 301 and Mr. Presnell had asked that to go to Fund 313 for Frank Smith Road and then the \$30,000.00 is still in 301 this year."

Chairman Lamb "Well, we'll just do what we need to do and we'll use it and if we've got it we will do everything we can to accommodate those items."

Commissioner Taylor " Can we, in going forward just put down this \$300+,000.00 as a negative on a sheet of paper and as we go through and find a little here and a little there, we'll make note of it towards that \$300,000.00 for the capital projects as discussed here to make a concerted effort towards making this happen."

Mr. Collins "Sure, and we may not need all of it. I don't know how many court cases we have, but if we have a bunch of court cases and get a bunch of money, we can do a roof."

Chairman Lamb "Don't ever think it can't happen because it can and Clyde, ya'll need to give us some kind of ideas of where you think it could come from as you go through and look at your budget."

Clerk Thomas "Let me make sure I understand what's essentially going on. Money in capital projects fund (the source involving the indigent sales tax) and Robert requesting for the Public Works Department to use some of that money this fiscal year in the budget to do that. So that's what is going on here?"

Commissioners responded affirmatively.

Chairman Lamb called for the next item.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

Mr. Williams said there are no essential changes in his budget over last year. There are no new priorities. There is an increase from \$1,043,283 to \$1,086,380.00 and he asked Ms. Chess where she increased his budget.

Ms. Chess explained the Administrator's budget had a 2% increase and Mr. Williams said as he sees it, they are miscellaneous increases which surely are based on their experience.

Commissioner Morgan said it looks like there is about a \$43,000.00 increase; with a \$ 37,000.00 increase in OMB.

Mr. Williams said there are things in here that he didn't have the first year such as travel.

Commissioner Morgan also said the Administrator's operating costs went from \$27,000.00 to \$39,000.00.

Commissioner Croley asked about the indigent hospital service and then Welfare and Medicaid. He said he didn't know if the Welfare and Medicaid would be reduced or a positive impact from the Hospital and then the indigent hospital service - "what are we doing there if you've got an indigent healthcare tax? How does that work?"

Clerk Thomas "I think what has happened is that this is where people go to hospitals in Tallahassee and they can't afford to pay and we get billed back for some of that expense, but hopefully, with the new arrangement you are already giving Capital Regional money now for indigent care with dividends from the Trust and part of the half-cent tax and that about offsets the indigent care they provide. That was the purpose of that and this particular budget for indigent is money that we're billed back from the Tallahassee hospitals and that should go down significantly".

Commissioner Croley inquired if that was on the \$500,000.00 or the \$100,000.00 and Clerk Thomas said the \$100,000.00.

Clerk Thomas explained that had gone up; in the past the County budgeted \$25,000.00 for that and then increased it after the

hospital closed. The Medicare and Welfare bill (\$500,000.00) is pretty much out of the County's control and the County gets billed from the State as a part of the National Medicare level. The Federal government makes each state pay part of the Medicare Medicaid and the local governments have to pay a portion of that money. He also responded to Commissioner Croley that this comes straight out of the general fund and it's billed on a formula by the State.

Commissioner Morgan asked if Clerk Thomas felt it would be a fair number in indigent care services to cut that in half and Clerk Thomas said he would think so.

Mr. Williams said that would be a considerable amount of savings, and Clerk Thomas said that is one place where you should theoretically have savings, big time.

Commissioner Morgan asked if cutting that from \$100,000.00 down to \$50,000.00 would be a good scenario and Clerk Thomas responded affirmatively. Commissioner Morgan said he was in agreement with the Clerk.

Commissioner Taylor asked for the expenditures year to date on that line item so they could see what has to be paid out of it Ms. Shuler said \$65,000.00 has been spent but she would need to see the detail to be sure how many months were included. She will get that information for the Board.

Commissioner Croley raised questions on the Welfare-Medicaid line item - fund summary revenues/expenditures as of July 2010- - showing \$500,000.00 - spent \$233,683 (said he didn't know how far behind claims being submitted are) with \$266,000 still there at this time, and Clerk Thomas explained this fiscal year's claims will continue coming in on this item; maybe as late as November because it depends on when the hospitals get their indigent billings out to the County so that \$266,000 will probably all be needed.

Commissioner Taylor asked why the OMB department budget increased by \$33-\$34,000.00 and Ms. Chess explained they had only budgeted \$60,000 for salaries but the salaries are at \$70,000.00 and also because of unemployment benefits being paid for two previous employees. The unemployment benefits paid this year (\$20,000.00) had been budgeted at \$10,000.00 so that was an additional \$10,000.00 for the unemployment benefits and an additional \$20,000.00 to cover the difference in salaries.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the \$70,000.00 would be the salary for the new budget director and Mr. Williams responded it would be less than \$70,000.00. He said he didn't know how much less but it would be less than the \$70,000.00 and Mr. Lawson said it is \$1,000.00 less.

After additional discussion, Commissioner Morgan stated the Administrator's operating expenses request had increased (\$27,000 to \$39,000) significantly and asked if there was anything specific that would cause that and Mr. Williams said he didn't see any one thing specifically; thought it was just an accumulation of a lot of small things.

Commissioner Croley asked about the communication services portion of the Administrator's budget (\$8,000.00) what all is included in that, how cell phones are handled, etc. and Mr. Williams said that charge would cover not just the cell phones, but the fax machines, etc., and that cell phone charges are pro-rated out by departments.

Mr. Lawson responded to Commissioner Croley's questions and explained the County does receive discounted rates and their County package covers 30,000 minutes so they don't get billed for minutes, it's basically just the basic monthly phone charges.

There being no further questions on the Administrator's budget, Chairman Lamb called for the next item.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

There was discussion concerning the proposed budget of \$234,000 for the attorney's fees and the fact that their average annual cost was only \$144,000 which would allow a \$90,000 cushion for large court litigations and unexpected law suits, etc. and Ms. Minnis said based on everything involved in the legal parameter, this is not an unusual request.

After additional discussion the consensus of the Board was to reduce the County Attorney's budget to \$200,000.00 which would be a reduction of \$34,000.00 in the requested budget.

COUNTY AUDIT:

Commissioner Croley suggested that in the future, a significant portion of the Independent Auditor's fee be held back by the County until the Audit is completed and received.

COUNTY COMMISSION:

Mr. Williams explained the Commission has requested \$30,000.00 less than they did last year.

Chairman Lamb asked how the Board's request was less and Mr. Lawson explained the video costs are not in there this year, and that he wasn't sure if the lobbying service was included in the Board's request.

Commissioner Morgan said he didn't see why their travel budget would be increased, especially with this being a lean year; and maybe there are some things that fewer people could go to or some things that could be omitted.

Chairman Lamb said no increase, but no decrease and to leave it at the \$11,600.00 and if they don't use it then it's still there.

Chairman Lamb called for the next item.

EMS:

Captain Crum explained EMS is not having fewer runs and their fuel costs were actually a little higher the month of June after the hospital opened, but he also said the shorter distance runs are not reflected in his proposed budget because there has not been a cost savings. He said he has not seen a deficit in what they've been doing just because the hospital opened. In response to questions from the Board, Captain Crum said they are still getting as many calls for service, but their transports out of county have dropped significantly.

Chairman Lamb said with what the Board is looking at, "there has to be a savings somewhere because you aren't taking someone with a sprained or broken finger to Tallahassee" and Captain Crum responded that essentially, even if it's a sprained finger and they want to go to Tallahassee EMS has to take them to Tallahassee. He did say EMS is billing those patients for that and the Board will even see some decrease in revenues that EMS is bringing in because they are not being able to charge for the mileage that they had been able to do in the past.

Commissioner Croley asked how much EMS charges to take someone from in the county to the new hospital and Captain Crum said "It is \$10.00/mile and we are losing \$250.00 a transport for

everybody that goes to the Gadsden hospital that we would have got had everybody went to Tallahassee" (25 miles to either hospital in Tallahassee from the Gadsden facility). He said the \$10.00 is the amount the County had agreed EMS could charge per mile and he doesn't know how long it has been since that cost was looked at. Commissioner Croley said that certainly needs to be looked at and Captain Crum said they could do that.

Commissioner Taylor "There are too many other variables included in that - there could have been more calls that month that would have had his costs to level out and not decrease. If they are simply going to the edge of town rather than to Tallahassee then there obviously should be a savings, but at the same time the number of calls probably increased so you aren't comparing apples to apples when looking at it just month to month". Captain Crum responded that June was a bad month because EMS had more calls comparatively in June than for the same month the prior two years and July was the same.

Commissioner Taylor said at this time the hospital hasn't been open long enough to get accurate figures but it is a reduction and that she sees where the County could save a significant amount of money by having EMS located at Urgent Care because EMS is currently paying \$24,000/year in utilities, over \$100,000.00 in materials and supplies.

Captain Crum said 86% of the EMS budget this year has already been used in line item 55200 - operating supplies, and Commissioner Taylor explained that, just like with everyone else, it's time for them to start tightening their belts and looking for vendors where things are a little less expensive. Captain Crum said the \$186,000 total for operating supplies represents a 25% decrease in fuel from last year. He said last year he had \$110,000.00 on his fuel line item and this year he has \$84,000.

Commissioner Taylor explained EMS will have a significant decrease in their fuel, especially if they are located at the hospital because once they drop off a patient, they will already be at their location. She recommended Mr. Collins rough in an office space for EMS at the hospital (urgent care area) and save the County \$50-60,000.00 by putting EMS there at the hospital.

Chairman Lamb agreed and said he didn't think it would cost that much for Mr. Collins to get that office set up for EMS (wherever Mr. Collins thinks is the best place, Urgent Care

area or wherever) to be located there; and if they have to use prison labor to do it, fine.

Commissioner Croley suggested GHI and Mr. Collins come up with the best location and then make a recommendation to the Commission, and Commissioner Taylor said she feels that is an item -- something that can be done in this fiscal year.

It was the consensus of the Commission that the \$10.00 per mile EMS fee be reviewed by Captain Crum, how it was developed, where it came from, how other counties are doing it, what other counties are charging as a comparison.

EXTENSION SERVICE:

No questions or changes regarding Extension Service.

LIBRARIES:

Commissioner Taylor asked Dr. Poole if there was some way she could find additional dollars to add to the line item - promotional activities because that is such a small annual amount to cover three libraries (down from \$7,000.00 to \$4,000.00) to provide services or programs for children to encourage/promote reading, stimulate academic development, etc. Dr. Poole said she had the same summer programs as they had the previous year and that she had not anticipated anything further unless the Board wanted to fund for other things throughout the year - some additional entertainment activities.

Commissioner Taylor said she understood the State did not cut the library's funding this year and suggested Dr. Poole may be able to look at her budget and find where some funds could be cut to assist in the additional children's activities as well as establishing some adult activities, and Dr. Poole agreed saying she thought it could be covered.

Chairman Lamb briefly addressed his desire that hopefully staff can identify some funding (grants, etc.) and come up with a proposal to construct a library in Midway - hopefully find land, funding, etc. by the time they are ready to begin budget work next fiscal year.

Commissioner Taylor said some land had previously been donated to the School Board in Midway to build a school - they aren't looking to build a school any time in the near future - a

library would be just as comfortable and Chairman Lamb said he would mention that to the Superintendent.

Dr. Poole said she knows there is stimulus money available through the USDA and that they are particularly interested in libraries this year so that would also be a possibility. She said USDA would only fund the construction of the building - no materials, employees, etc., but it would be up to the County to fund it beyond that.

Commissioner Croley said he would like his colleagues to join with him to help Dr. Poole try to have a true genealogical library (similar to what is available in Thomas County, Ga.) in the downtown Quincy area, separate from the regular library so that adults coming in to visit can use that facility for historical and genealogical data collection, and he asked them to take advantage and look at that program when they have the opportunity. He also suggested Dr. Poole discuss this with the Friends of the Library for their possible interest in the program.

There was discussion on janitorial services at the libraries and Dr. Poole said the main library is serviced by the County and cleaned by the inmates and the two branches are covered by a contract with an outside cleaning company. She said originally there was a custodian dedicated to servicing just the three libraries but that person left more than a year ago and has not been replaced and that is where the gap is and we're trying to make do. Commissioner Croley asked Mr. Collins if there was something that needed to be addressed in his budget, in the library budget or if it is a case of accountability? What is the issue? He asked Mr. Williams if there was something they needed to do to at least consider addressing this problem and Mr. Williams said he would like to get that position back - would like to get a lot of positions back but if you add something, you've got to take away something else.

After additional discussion Chairman Lamb said staff and the County Administrator needs to get together, come up with a recommendation for the Board and the Board will support them. He said the Board should not have to be dealing with this. He said staff should address this type of problem;-- get together make a recommendation and bring it back to the Board.

Commissioner Morgan asked for an explanation of the \$40,000.00 shown for software purchases and Dr. Poole said they had

created a new line item for library technology as it was previously paid for under professional services and they didn't feel it was an accurate description. She also responded in reference to the book mobile that the budget for the fuel/oil is low.

Mr. Lawson pointed out the line item 56600, books/publications, library materials for each of the libraries had been increased by \$10,000 and Dr. Poole said she had requested \$50,000.00 but that had been scratched and it will affect the state aid funding the next couple of years because that all goes into a formula that shows how much the County is contributing to the local libraries.

Commissioner Croley said he saw that the acquisition of books is rather weak compared to the whole cost of running the libraries and he asked what type of communication Dr. Poole was having with the Friends of the Library concerning the need and possibility of their help in the purchase of the library materials, and if they have been involved in this budget process. In response Dr. Poole said the Friends of the Library are very supportive of the Library and their needs but that they have not seen this budget printout - they have seen the last year's budget and there was no funding in it. She also explained at every meeting she has with the Friends of the Library they discuss the need for books and the fact that there is no funding available.

Commissioner Croley said some of the things he is hearing in the community is that there is a need to be engaged with them directly about some of this so that they know what is needed and can possibly assist. He asked Mr. Williams and Mr. Lawson make sure this is followed up on.

Commissioner Taylor said she would like the Commissioners to consider in going back to the promotional items line item that \$10,000.00 be shown there rather than the \$4,000.00 (\$6,000.00 increase) and that would take care of the adults and children's programs in and around the three libraries; that would be a good start and would let the citizens see an effort on the part of the County.

Dr. Poole suggested the possibility of getting rid of the Library's 1991 van and Chairman Lamb said that could be considered and a recommendation brought back to the Board.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES:

Mr. Lawson asked for funding in the amount of \$5,000.00 to restore the Employee's Assistance Program because when a current employee tests positive for drugs or alcohol the County needs an avenue for having somewhere to send them, prior to terminating them. He also responded to Commissioner Taylor that the \$2,000.00 increase shown in other current charges and obligations is strictly to cover advertising - job openings, bids, legal ads, etc.

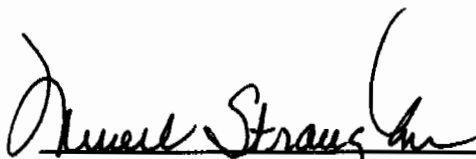
VETERAN'S SERVICES:

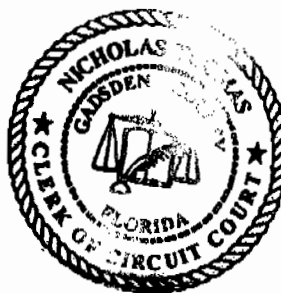
Commissioner Taylor asked that the Commission consider putting \$1,500.00 into Veteran's Services Budget for an activity on Veteran's Day. She said the activity proved to be so important because information was made available to our local veterans on benefits that are available to them but many of the veterans weren't even aware of some of these benefits; it's more than just a luncheon, it's needed and it's more of a benefit for them. Mr. Lawson said they would certainly look it and see if they can find something.

The next Budget Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, 4:00 PM, September 29, 2010.

THERE BEING NOTHING FURTHER TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS TIME, AND UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION TO ADJOURN.


CHAIRMAN EUGENE LAMB


Muriel Straughn, Deputy Clerk



As transcribed by Jean Chesser, Deputy Clerk